



SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

MEDIA RELEASE

APPOINTMENTS TO THE FEDERAL COURTS

Today I announce three appointments to the federal courts, bringing to the Bench a wealth of experience and expertise across a range of practice areas.

Appointment to the Federal Court of Australia

Mr David O'Callaghan QC will commence in the Melbourne registry on 1 February 2017. Mr O'Callaghan completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Melbourne in 1980 and a Master of Laws at Yale University in 1984. He signed the bar roll in 1986 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2003.

Appointments to the Federal Circuit Court of Australia

Dr Robert Harper SC will commence in the Sydney Registry on 18 January 2017. Dr Harper graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Laws in 1985 and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in 1983. He completed a Doctor of Philosophy in 1997 at the University of Sydney and became an accredited mediator in 2013.

Mr Anthony Kelly QC will commence in the Melbourne Registry on 6 February 2017. Mr Kelly graduated with a Certificate from the Council of Legal Education, RMIT University in 1982. He commenced his career as an articled clerk with Gilbert Field & Warne in Melbourne from 1978 to 1982 and then as a solicitor from 1982 to 1985. He then worked as a solicitor for Ryan Carlisle Needham Thomas in Melbourne from 1985 to 1987. Mr Kelly commenced as a barrister at Owen Dixon Chambers West in Melbourne in 1987.

On behalf of the Government, I congratulate these three new federal judges and thank them for their willingness to serve the people of Australia.

9 December 2016